

would make it economical to ship crude in large vessels to the U.S.) and pipeline decisions directing future crude oil shipments to the Far East. The more rational, economic choice of a pipeline to the Barents Sea in the north of Russia and the development of a deepwater port near Murmansk has been delayed despite backing by both Russian and American firms.

But there is positive news coming from the Russian gas market, which is dominated by Gazprom, of which the government owns 38 percent. Gazprom exports one third of its production to Europe via pipeline supplying about 25 percent of Europe's gas needs. Over the last two or three decades of service, there has been only one day of interruption in gas service due to a payment problem in Belarus. Gazprom now is seeking to expand and diversify its markets, through both expansion of its pipelines and entry into the LNG trade. Gazprom spoke at the U.S. LNG Summit in December 2003, and the U.S. held a workshop at Gazprom's headquarters in June 2004, again urging Gazprom to focus on the U.S. market. Gazprom President Alexsey Miller signed agreements last year with three U.S. multinationals to explore developing Russian gas and LNG facilities, and marketing the LNG to the U.S. In fact, Gazprom expects to enter the U.S. LNG market indirectly by 2006, and directly by 2010. After the summit meeting, the joint communiqué from President Bush and President Putin referred to this issue, saying, "We are interested in increasing U.S. commercial investment in Russia, so as to create additional capacity for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Russia, and also with the aim of increasing LNG exports to U.S. markets. We would welcome increased Russian oil exports to the world market and an increased presence of imports from Russia in the United States." That would be welcome news to the U.S. market.

The U.S. must remain engaged in the U.S.-Russia Energy Dialogue, despite recent adversities. We should not shrink from discussing these setbacks openly, frankly and seriously. But we need to support the May 2002 agreement to increase energy trade between the U.S. and Russia in both oil and gas, since it would enhance U.S. energy security through diversity of supply, while helping to stabilize Russia's economy and tie its interests to American success. Both countries will benefit from a long-term, stable trade in both oil and gas.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO POLICE CHIEF
AGUSTIN DOVALINA III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of Laredo Police Chief Agustín Dovalina III in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Agustín Dovalina III was named interim police chief for the City of Laredo Police Department in 1996, and was subsequently named as the LPD chief in 1997. He began his law enforcement career with the Laredo Police Department in 1978 as a patrolman and rose

through the ranks of Laredo's finest. He has served prior posts as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain.

Under this administration, the police department has evolved into a thriving, highly successful, and professional organization with unprecedented personnel and equipment growth. He currently oversees a multi-million dollar departmental budget and over 500 employees, including over 400 full-time police officers. Recognized nationally, Chief Dovalina is a firm believer and staunch advocate of community-based policing philosophies as evidenced by the continued commitment of the Laredo Police Department to continually enhance its delivery of Community-Oriented Policing Services in our city. Chief Agustín was one of the featured speakers at the 2002 National Community Policing Conference, where the Laredo Police Department was honored for the success of its community-based policing efforts.

Police Chief Dovalina has both a Bachelor and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's State & Local Executives Program. He is also a graduate of the 178th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification and Police Instructor Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards & Education and, is an active member of the Texas Chapter of FBI NA Associates. He also serves as Regional Representative to the National Criminal Justice Association and is an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the dedication of Laredo Police Chief Agustín Dovalina III.

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA LANIER
BIASOTTO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Virginia Lanier Biasotto upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Biasotto is the founder of Reading ASSIST® Institute. This institute is a nonprofit organization that trains volunteer tutors to implement a one-on-one help method using scientific research-based instruction for struggling readers. This program is provided at no cost to families or schools.

Beginning in 1980, Ms. Biasotto developed a reading curriculum based on the Orton-Gillingham model, and trained friends at her kitchen table. One sound at a time, one child at a time, the groups persistence offered the education community a way to deal with the challenge of reading difference.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Biasotto upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Biasotto's determination and drive to educate and empower others serves as an example to us all. She is truly worthy of this honor.

A TRIBUTE TO QUEENIE MARY
CORLEY WOOTEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Queenie Mary Corley Wooten in recognition of her public service and numerous contributions to her community.

Queenie has made a difference in many people's lives. She was born into a family of ten in Salley, South Carolina to the late James and Estella Hunt Corey. She is the wife of the late James Wooten and the companion of Dr. Raymond B. Croskey for the past 21 years.

She has encountered many challenges during her life and has embraced them all with courage and dignity, which exemplifies the type of person she is. Queenie graduated from Medgar Evers College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. She took additional courses, which enhanced her long and remarkable career in education. Presently, she is working in Region #5 as a Coordinator of External Community Programs. In addition to networking with East New York and Brownsville city agencies, she serves on the cabinets of Planning Board #5 and #16.

Queenie is developing innovative and creative external programs to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students. She coordinates activities with the external community, also assists the director with setting priorities and selecting high quality collaborative programs. She mobilizes resources for regional and school priorities, collaborates with schools in Region #5 to create inter-agency regional advisory councils, and volunteers on Planning Board #5, working with the committee on education. Additionally, she works diligently with students to help them get credit for community service.

Queenie is one of the founders of the American College of Counselors, for the New York Branch, and was recently honored by the Department of Education for her service of 41 years. In fact, she has received numerous honors and awards for her work including: an award from Medgar Evers College as one of its first graduates; the Sojourner Truth Award from the Brooklyn Club of the Negro Business & Professional Women's Club; an honoree of the Women's League of Science and Medicine Inc; and the education award from Van Siclen Block Association. Organizations such as National Sickle Cell Research and the Latin Souls Little League Baseball have honored her as well. Queenie serves on the Board of Directors for Medgar Evers Alumni Association, as the Youth Advisor for the Brooklyn Youth Club, and the chair of North East Committee of Elections.

She notes that all of her accomplishments would not have been possible without the spiritual leadership of Rev. Jacob Underwood. Queenie has been a faithful member of Grace Baptist for the past 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, Queenie Mary Corley Wooten has been dedicated to serving her community through her work on numerous community boards and volunteer efforts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.